

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 NEA-10 SSO-00

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R 170943Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3070

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PARIS 20931

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, FR, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE VISA APPLICANTS

REF: PARIS 19366, STATE 174715

1. EMBASSY PARIS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO RECEIVE STATE REFTTEL SINCE IT EXPRESSES A DEGREE OF CONCERN FOR SOLUTION OF THE LEBANESE VISA PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE FELT FOR SOME TIME. INDEED IT WAS THIS GROWING CONCERN WHICH PROMPTED OUR PREVIOUS CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. LEBANESE APPLICANTS AT EMBASSY PARIS HAVE OF COURSE RECEIVED THE SORT OF EXPEDITIOUS AND SYMPATHETIC HANDLING WHICH STATE 174715 PRESCRIBES FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT CRISIS.

3. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE GROWING NUMBERS OF LEBANESE APPLICANTS IS NOT ONE WHICH CAN BE ENTIRELY SOLVED SOLELY BY THE ADOPTION OF A SPECIFIC ATTITUDE. TO PUT IT MORE PLAINLY, THE LARGE MAJORITY OF LEBANESE NIV APPLICANTS MUST FINALLY BE FOUND TO BE INELIGIBLE SO LONG AS THE ULTIMATE

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TOUCHSTONE OF JUDGMENT REMAINS THE IMMIGRATION AND

NATIONALITY ACT--AND STATE 174715 WOULD APPEAR TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS IS INDEED THE CASE.

4. AS WE STATED IN OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGE, THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE RISING TIDE OF LEBANESE NATIONALS ARE STILL VERY MUCH WITH US IN FRANCE, BOTH IN PARIS AND IN THE PROVINCES (I.E. OUR 5 CONSTITUENT POSTS). IN ADMINISTRATIVE TERMS, THIS HAS MEANT SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL STAFF TIME DEVOTED TO INTERVIEWING APPLICANTS, ISSUING HURRY-UP VIS AND RESPONDING TO VOLUMINOUS PUBLIC, CONGRESSIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS FOR STATUS REPORTS, REVIEWS AND JUSTIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. IN HUMN AND PUBLIC RELATIOHS TERMS, THE COST HAS BEEN EVEN GREATER. FOR IT MAKES LITTLE DIFERENCE HOW LONG IS SPENT IN EXPLAINING ONE'S SYMPATHY WITH THE HUMANITARIAN SPECTS OF AH INDIVIDUAL CASE IF IN THE EHD THE ANSWER MUST BE "NO". EMBASSY PARIS OF COUSE ASSUMES THAT THERE HAS BEEH SOME THOUGHT GIVEH BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE METHODS BY WHICH THE CALVANISTIC PRECEPTS OF CURENT LAW AHD REGULATION MAY BE EFFECTIVELY MODULATED THROUGH EITHER EXECUTIVE OR CONGRESSIONAL ACTIOH. INDEED, WE HAVE HEARD THAT THERERE BILLS PEHDING IN THE CONGRESS WHICH WOULD CREATE A PAROLE PROGRAM FOR THE LEBANESE. IT HAS ALSO BEEH RUMORED THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND INS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF 7TH PREFERENCE PROCESSING OF LEBANESE HATIONALS. IF THERE BE SUBSTANCE TO ANY OF THIS, THE EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED, SINCE SUCH INFORMATION WOULD GREATLY ASSIST US IN GIVIHG A FULLY SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE WHEN CONFRONTING SOME OF THE MORE IHTRACTABLE LEBANESE PROBLEMS WE NOW FACE.

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